



*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of The United Church of Christ*



Order of Worship for September 19, 2021, 10:30am

Welcome to Online Worship at Center Church!
We are delighted that you are with us today.

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE: “Amazing Grace”

*arr. D Bish
Bob Gilbert, Organist*

CHORAL INTROIT “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

WELCOME to Center Church!

Dr. Eric Hearst

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: If you are weak and in need of strength,
if you are feeling fragile, or vulnerable,
know that you are welcome here,
know that Christ beckons you here,
know that you are loved here.*

All: We come to worship like children, ready to rest in God’s arms.

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN: “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

*REGENT SQUARE
printed on the next page*


Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-7



Latin, 6th-8th century

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.



St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992




1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner-stone,
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, to - day!
 3 Here re - new your ser - vants' vis - ion, that by faith they may at - tain

chos - en of our God and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one;
 With your con - stant, lov - ing kind - ness hear your peo - ple as they pray.
 peace and hope, re - newed com - pas - sion, strength to com - fort those in pain,

Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Give your full - est ben - e - dic - tion: grace to fol - low Christ the Way.
 Tears and grief trans - formed to glad - ness in your ev - er - last - ing reign.



Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Henry T. Smart, 1867

Alternate tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM "A Jubilant Song"

*A. Pote
Center Church Choir*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we commit ourselves to service, but fail to have a servant's heart. We seek social status, not sacrifice. We welcome worldly success, not the humble path of Christ. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from the pressures of the world that keep us jockeying for position. Help us be servants of all. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES: ECCLESIASTES 4: 9-12 (NRSV)
I CORINTHIANS 12: 12-14, 27 (NRSV)

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

.....

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

SERMON: “#Together”

Dr. Eric Hearst

HYMN: “Blessed Be the Tie that Binds”

DENNIS

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

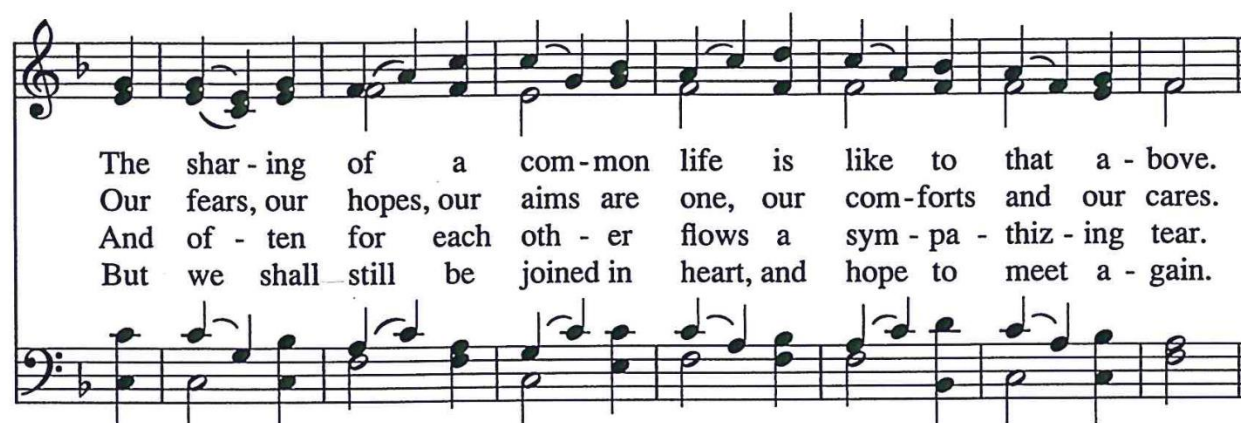
393

John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,



The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

Tune: DENNIS S.M.
Melody by Johann G. Nägeli (c. 1768-1836)
Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: *Lord in your mercy,*

All: *Hear our prayer.*

PASTORAL PRAYER


THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

CLOSING HYMN: "Forward Through the Ages"

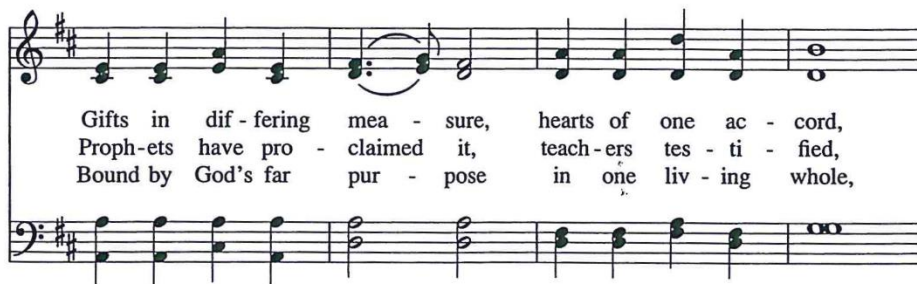
ST. GERTRUDE



1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
 2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;
 3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;



move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;
 for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.
 in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.



Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,
 Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,
 Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,



man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.
 po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyr's for it died.
 move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

Refrain



For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,



Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.

CHORAL BENEDICTION: “Amen”

Traditional

ORGAN POSTLUDE: “Rondeau”

*J. J. Mouret
Bob Gilbert, Organist*

Our thanks to everyone who created today’s service. Go in peace!

Center Church News & Announcements

Subscribe to our E-News newsletter for up-to-date news and happenings at Center

Church: <https://centerchurchhartford.org/>
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/OzymYij/CenterChurch>

And, don’t forget to follow us on FB!



THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

A member of the United Church of Christ (UCC)

CENTER CHURCH, 60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30am to 3:30pm

Library Hours by Appointment

P 860.249.5631 F 860.246.3915 www.centerchurchhartford.org

Minister Emeritus: The Reverend J. Alan McLean

Director of Music/Organist: Robert F. Gilbert (ext. 204)

Coordinator for Justice & Faith Formation Ministries: Dr. Eric Hearst (ext 209)

Church Office Manager: Emily McKenna (ext. 200)

Bookkeeper: Brenda Russell (ext. 201)

Sextons: Thomas St. Amant and Ileia Belton Sunday

Meals Program Coordinator: Carrie Howe (ext 205)

Nursery Care: Tina Franklin

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Would you like to learn more about Center Church?? Email us at info@cchartford.org

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING Congregation. "We include into full participation in the life of this church persons of any age, race, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and physical, emotional and mental capacity" (from the statement adopted October 23, 1994.) In recognition of the richness of backgrounds of our congregation, a **DIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES** will find expression in our worship services. Center Church offers an **OPEN COMMUNION**. Adults and children from all religious backgrounds are invited to partake. **TEXT ALERTS** To receive text alerts regarding church activities and cancellations, please text the word CENTER to (860) 300-3697. (Message and data rates may apply according to your data plan.)

FACEBOOK LIVE We livestream our worship services on Facebook each week, and your presence here constitutes your permission for your image to be shown. If you prefer not to be seen, speak with the minister or whoever is operating the phone up front to determine where a good seat might be to avoid the camera. Our viewership is growing and we are excited to welcome a congregation in cyberspace!

Church Information for when our buildings are open -

FREE PARKING is available during Sunday Worship Services at the Travelers Plaza Garage off Prospect Street (next to the Hartford Club.) The garage closes at 1:00pm (12:00pm during Summer services). On-street parking is also available on Gold Street and on the west side of Lewis Street, and is FREE on Sundays.

REST ROOMS are located in the basement of the Meeting House. Please use the stairs in the southeast corner of the building. For safety, please have an adult accompany your child to the restroom.

CHURCH SCHOOL is held at the Church House (60 Gold Street) for preschool to 12th Grade. Children are to remain with their families in the Meeting House during worship until they depart for Church School following the Children's Moment. Please pick your child up promptly at 12:00pm. For their safety, children will remain with their Church School instructor until an adult picks them up. Church School is not held during the Summer.

CHILDCARE and NURSERY care are provided by trained, capable, and nurturing staff and volunteers, and is available in the Meeting House basement for infants and toddlers (up to two years of age.) A nursery without staff is also located on the second floor of the Church House.

CURRENT SUNDAY ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES Announcements regarding Adult Education classes are announced in our publications.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS to the sanctuary is via the lift outside at the south end of the portico. If possible, please call the church office in advance for assistance in using the lift.

Please feel free to confer with a minister regarding our **INQUIRER'S CLASSES** for **POTENTIAL MEMBERS, BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS** or **COMMITMENT CEREMONIES**. The latest issue of **CENTER CHURCH E-NEWS** is available on our church website. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, please contact us at info@cchartford.org / 860-249-5631